



National Aeronautics and
Space Administration

Deputy Director Airspace Systems Program



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I provide organizational and technical leadership toward achieving the national goal of improving the National Airspace System. To achieve that goal, our program must consider the following challenges of today's air traffic control system while developing a vision for the future.

- Accommodating projected air traffic growth while maintaining safety.
- Providing for National Airspace System efficiency.
- Including all stakeholders in the development and transition of new technologies.

Areas of expertise:

- Wind tunnel testing
- Operational field testing
- Program/Project Management
- Public Policy

How I first became interested in this profession:

During a junior high school field trip to a power generation facility I saw several large turbines and turbo machinery. That visit fostered an interest in electro/mechanical equipment. Later in high school I was fortunate to help in my uncle's automobile repair shop where I learned more about engines and machinery. Also, since my uncle had been in the U.S. Airforce we often discussed aviation.

What helped prepare me for this job:

In addition to my education, my career experiences in both private industry and government, have provided a foundation in wind tunnel testing, aviation maintenance, engineering field testing, flight testing, weapon system developments, construction and renovation of facilities, navigation equipment operational testing and resource management.

My education and training:

- BS Aeronautics, California State University
- MS Aeronautical Engineering, Naval Postgraduate School
- Doctorate, Public Policy, Golden Gate University
- Additional training as a FAA licensed private pilot and an aviation maintenance A&P license

My career path:

- During undergrad: work-study student in wind tunnel research, NASA Ames Research Center
- After undergrad: private industry conducting engineering field testing
- Then, SR-71 flight research, NASA Dryden Flight Research Center
- Engineering support in the areas of instrumentation and construction, Army Corps of Engineers
- Project management assignments in research lab and conducted weapon system operational evaluations, Department of the Army Missile Command
- 15 years after leaving Ames, I returned to conduct center level program and project evaluations on the Director's staff. Additionally, I managed the Short Haul Civil Tiltrotor Project office before being selected as Deputy Director of the Airspace Systems Program.

What I like about my job:

I have an opportunity to contribute to our national goal of improving the National Airspace System. Many individuals and stakeholders are involved which makes this assignment challenging and very interesting.

What I don't like about my job:

There are not enough hours in the day to get everything accomplished, but that provides the opportunity to prioritize the things you need to get done.

My advice to anyone interested in this occupation:

Be open to the opportunities of change, as I consider program managers agents of change.